

**SAVANNAH'S
ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 28, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
JC Lewis Health Center, Host: CSAH

I. Welcome and Introductions - Anne Roise (5 min)

Americorps Volunteer, Natalie Walker

II. Housekeeping (5 min)

- A. Updated Task Force Contact List / Sign-in Sheet- Julie Lamy
- B. Task Force Listserve - John Paul Berlon

III. Review of last meeting (5 min)

IV. Host Spotlight: Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless – Craig Cashman (10 min)

V. Reports from Sub-Committees

- 1. Living Wage – Alan Bray for Bernie Polite (5 min)
- 2. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy (5 min)
- 3. Resource Collaboration – John Paul Berlon (5 min)

VI. Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Whorton (30 min)

VII. Next Steps & Assignments (10 min)

VIII. Information Sharing (time permitting)

- A. Upcoming Task Force member events
- B. Other announcements

IX. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

November 18*	United Way of the Coastal Empire
December 16*	Lutheran Services of Georgia
January 27	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
February 24	

* Date moved to 3rd Tuesday of the month due to the holidays.

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X. Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Sr. Pat Baber, John Paul Berlon, Alan Bray, Meketa Brown, Rick Brown, Martine Clark, Craig Cashman, Ernest Dailey, Yvonne Davis, Richard Edwards, Cpl. Charlie Fields, Carole Fireall, Michael Freeman, Stephen George, Lillian Grant-Baptiste, Maureen Horvath, Julie Lamy, Charlotte Rehmert, Anne Roise, Dianca Rogers, Janice Sheffield, Natalie Walker, Ruthann Walsh, Brian White, Tom Wilson.

XI. Housekeeping

C. The Task Force contact list was circulated for corrections and additions.

D. Task Force Listserve - If you have any questions about the list serve, please contact John Paul Berlon at johnpaul@savannahfairhousing.org/ 912-651-3136 or Julie Lamy at Julie_Lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us/ 912-651-3653.

XII. Review of last meeting

The September 23 meeting summary was approved as presented.

XIII. Host Spotlight: Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless – Craig Cashman

Established in 1989 by the State legislature, the Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless serves as the umbrella organization for all area homeless service providers. The mission of the CSAH is to partner with service providers and the community to help assist homeless and near homeless people in reaching self-sufficiency. Since its inception, the City of Savannah has seen a 45% reduction of the homeless population. CSAH is currently working on new initiatives to address the needs of the 'Chronic Homeless' population. For more information about CSAH, please contact their office at 790-3900.

XIV. Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Living Wage – Alan Bray for Bernie Polite

A. In the process of developing a final version of short/long term goals.

B. Currently researching living wage ordinances in other cities; gathering information on what obstacles they faced in implementing the policy.

C. Task Force members interested in joining the Living Wage sub-committee should contact Mr. Bernie Polite at 398-4945

2. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy

- A. Surveys: The committee recently reviewed the results of the At-Risk surveys completed by the participating agencies (DFCS, EOA/Tom Austin House, HAS, NIA, St. Mary's Community Center and St. Pius X FRC). We are now in the process of defining what it means to be safe/self-sufficient in the City of Savannah. The committee is also developing the safe/self-sufficient survey.
- B. Natalie Walker is working with Lillian Grant- Baptiste to identify ways to link the Faith-based community.
- E. The sub-committee is in the process of developing long and short term goals.
- F. Task Force members interested in joining the Case Management Systems sub-committee should contact Julie Lamy at 651-3653 or julie_lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us. The sub-committee's minutes, information and the At-Risk Survey Kit are also posted on the listserve at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aptfcasemgt>.
- E. The next committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3 from 10:00am-12:00 pm at St. Mary's Community Center.

3. Resource Collaboration – John Paul Berlon

- A. Resource Surveys: The Resource Collaboration sub-committee is gathering information to update the United Way 211 system.
- B. United Way 211 placards available for display. Contact John Paul Berlon at jpberlon@yahoo.com
- C. Task Force members interested in joining the Resource Collaboration sub-committee should contact Yvonne Davis 651-3653.

2. Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Whorton

Dr. Joseph Whorton shared the following quote at the beginning of his presentation:

"The biggest problem with poverty is you don't have to look at it."

-Michael Herrington

Dr. Whorton is currently the director of Georgia Rural Development Council. In conjunction with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government and University of Georgia, he coordinated a research project that focused on the reasons for persistent poverty in the South. Entitled "Dismantling Persistent Poverty", the study focused on an area of the South that stretches from southern Virginia to eastern Mississippi. As a follow-up to that study, a publication was produced that took an in depth look at the state of Georgia. The research findings cited that the cause of persistent poverty, not only in Georgia but throughout the south, was failing state and federal public policies and inter-generational poverty. Dr. Whorton's research has entered its second stage and he is now working on The Poverty Initiative with the University of Georgia. Addressing

the issue of poverty in Georgia, this is a three-fold initiative that involves a push on the University of Georgia’s campus to get both students and faculty involved; statewide outreach programs aimed at other universities in both the university system and private sector, and community involvement. For more information you can visit www.cviog.uga.edu/poverty.

3. Ideas Presented During Discussion

- A. A conference in which best practices are highlighted
- B. Get people involved
 - 1. Change the public’s view and get them involved
 - 2. Recruit support from the private sector
- C. Create a partnership with local universities in the Savannah area to take on the task of conducting research.
- D. Sponsor a forum to discuss poverty and what it ‘looks like’ in Savannah

4. Information Sharing

- Upcoming Task Force member events
- 1. Coastal Workforce Services Open House – Nov 12
 - 2. Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness – Nov 17-19
 - 3. Coastal Georgia Affordable Housing Workshop – Dec 1

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